

## **EASTERN CAMBRIDGE PLANNING STUDY**

### **Vision Statement**

Eastern Cambridge is a remarkably diverse community of historic neighborhoods, state-of-the-art research facilities, a world-renowned university, a vibrant traditional main street, neighborhood parks and the Charles River — all within a short walk of each other. This diversity produces a community that includes both housing and research, single family houses and office buildings, historic and cutting edge architecture, pedestrians, bicycles and heavy vehicular traffic, and other contrasts of urban life. The resulting mix is the basis for a uniquely vital community — a quality often sought but rarely achieved in other urban communities. Yet this mix is also the source of tensions. The challenge we face is to identify realistic and implementable ways to preserve and enhance the benefits of Eastern Cambridge's diversity, while managing and diminishing the accompanying negative impacts.

Our broad vision for the future of Eastern Cambridge incorporates:

- Land use patterns that improve quality of life in residential neighborhoods and foster a vital public realm in mixed-use districts.
- Housing opportunities for a wide range of residents across the community.
- Economic development that addresses the needs of small and start-up businesses and residents in need of jobs.
- Transportation patterns that encourage walking, transit use, and bicycle use, reducing reliance on automobiles.
- Open space to serve the needs of current and future residents.
- Development that enhances the character of residential neighborhoods, supports creation of more lively pedestrian-friendly areas, and results in more attractive and convenient pedestrian connections between every part of Eastern Cambridge.
- A diverse mix of residents, businesses, and institutions, each working as good neighbors who contribute to the community's livability and vitality.